THE MESSENGER

OF THE OAKLAND STAKE OF ZION

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SOUTH AMERICA INTRIGUES ELMHURST MISSIONARY

C. Gail Cragun, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cal Cragun of Elmhurst has been laboring in far off Brazil some nineteen months, and writes that they have been extremely short months to him. A letter received by Ray Darton explains why, —simply much to see and much to do. But let Gail speak for himself:

"My first five months in the mission field were spent in Sao Paulo. It is a city of over a million inhabitants and is the second largest in Brazil. As it is 3,000 feet above sea level and only forty miles from the ocean the climate is very much like California's.

"A large part of the world's coffee is grown on the large coffee "fazendas", (Plantations) further in the interior. During the past few years the production of cotton has made a great deal of progress. Bananas also form a large part of industry there, but they are grown chiefly at the lower elevation. The Butantan Institute, or "snake farm" is one of the chief centers of interest. There one can see snakes of all varieties found in Brazil, and if you are there at the right time, you can see the attendants extract the poison from the fangs of poisionous varieties. Experiments are made there for finding ways of combating snake-bite, and serum for that purpose is also made there.

"My next seven months found me in Joinvillo, in the state of Santa Catherina. Here I spent most of my time in the Colonies outside of more centralized populations. It was necessary for my companion and I to buy a horse and saddle as there was no other transportation between the points to which we were assigned. During my assignment there I learned a great deal from the life of the colonists, many of whom were still cutting down jungle to clear the land on which to plant their rice and other easy growing crops. As the drainage of the land is poor many of them were confronted with swamps and mosquitoes. Many of the "Snake" stories about Brazil are like many of the "Fish" stories at home. There are, of course, many snakes here but not as prevalent as some people think.

"Novo Hamburgo, where I have been the past four months, has about ten or twelve thousand inhabitants, and is situated in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. The chief industries here are leather tanning and shoe making. The most of the people here are Germans or of German decent. That makes it easier for us as we are working only among the German speaking people at the present time. The Book of Mormon has been translated but not as yet published in Portuguese, the national language of Brazil.

"All in all the missionary work is very interesting, but no bed of roses; there are difficulties to overcome, but none are unsurmountable, and if one really has his heart on his work he scarcely notices the little ones.

"I have learned to like the Brazilian people and their country. In many ways the people are very much like Americans, but in many other ways their customs are very different. Probably one of the greatest differences is the idea of taking life easy. Tomorrow is just as good a time to do things as today, and usually tomorrow menas sometime in the distant future. One soon learns "Pacienda" (pacience) in Brazil.

"I send the Oakland stake my greetings."

PITTSBURG BECOMES INDEPENDENT BRANCH

Sunday, December 19th, the Stake Presidency and Bishop Abbot of Martinez ward attended Sunday school services at Pittsburg, and as a result thereof, the saints living there were organized into an independent branch. Francis Mellor was unanimously sustained as the branch president. His counselors and branch clerk have not yet been selected but will be chosen at an early date.

There was a large gathering of the saints at the meeting which was addressed by each of the Stake Presidency, by Bishop Abbott, and by the new president. The spirit of the people is splendid, and a great activity may be expected. Already they have been busy trying to select a suitable place as a permenent home.

DO YOUR SHARE!

The Messenger comes into your home every month, bringing you vital Stake and ward news, drawing you closer together with your brothers and sisters in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

It costs money to print and distribute The Messenger. This is paid partly by its advertisers, partly by your ward bishop. Did you ever think how much it takes, both time and money, to keep this work going smoothly? And have you ever checked up with yourself on whether you are doing your share?

Go see your bishop, —now! Let him know you appreciate his tireless work. Then show that appreciation by doing your share.

FIFTH MISSIONARY FROM DIMOND WARD

With the departure of J. Robert Kest for the Netherlands this month, the Dimond ward will have five full time missionaries in the field, one more than its alloted quota. So far only Dimond and Elmhurst wards have reached their full allotments.

J. Robert Kest

J. Robert Kest is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Kest, of Oakland, and has been active in church affairs in Dimond ward. Recently he has been preparing the script and acting as announcer for the Mormon Male chorus in its broadcasts.

A missionary testimonial was given in his honor in the Dimond Chapel December 17, with an interesting program of music and responses. Bishop Phelps presided at the services and the program included Mission experiences and a typical conversation in Holland by Elmo Carr and Altja Johan; a vocal solo, also sung in the native Holland tongue, by Jane Cousins; remarks by John J. Kest, followed by a presentation of books to the Missionary from the Dimond ward; and last, a response from the Missionary. The Mormon Male chorus furnished the music for the program, singing three selections, which included their "Farewell" song, its farewell tribute to the Missionaries. Dancing followed the program in the recreational hall.

Before returning from his mission Bob is planning to do some voice work at the Hague under the direction of Mr. Van Denberg, symphony conductor and voice teacher Bob reports to the Mission Home in Salt Lake City, January 3rd, and will sail from New York January 27, aboard the S. S. Manhatton.

Following is the present status of wards as regards their quotas of missionaries:

Ward	Quota	Missionaries in Field
Alameda	1	0
Berkeley	4	2
Dimond	4	5
Elmhurst	4	4
Hayward	2	0
Martinez	2	0
Oakland	4	2
Richmond	1	0
Vallejo	2	1

HEIGH-HO FOR THE M. I. A. NEW YEAR PARTY!

A New Year Celebration for all of M.I.A. age is to be staged in the Berkeley amusement hall Friday evening, December 31st. Dancing to the best of music, confetti, ballons, fun for all and all for fun! Come out and wish your friends a Happy New Year!

THE MESSENGER

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

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Elmhurst, Beatrice Stock, 2044 83rd Ave., TRinidad 2889.

Hayward, Mrs. Bessie Auger, 1715 B Street.

Martinez, Andrew Easton, Jr., 525 Arch Street.

Oakland, Dorothy Brown, 689 Poirer Street, OLympic 4320.

Richmond, Lillian Morley, 29 Tunnel Road, Pt. Richmond.

Vallejo, Ruth Cheshire, 1315 El Dorado Street, Vallejo 1015-J.

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me; and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple."—Mal. 3:1.

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WARD TEACHERS' MESSAGE

January 1938

Ward teachers are requested during January to get an accurate record of the children of Primary age in the families assigned to them, and to find out which ones are not regularly attending, encouraging them to come out.

READING THE BOOK OF MORMON

Every Latter-day Saint should be familiar with the teachings of the Book of Mormon. Its origin and history are so much a part of the foundation of the restored Gospel that its acceptance is necessary to full faith in the Church and its mission in the world.

1938 is "Book of Mormon Year" in all the Sunday Schools of the Church. Every possible effort is to be made to have every Church member read this important scripture during the year.

The Adult classes of the M. I. A. are studying Science, Tradition, and the Book of Mormon. The Church-wide celebration of the Resoration of the Aaronic Priesthood in May will feature pilgrimages, programs and pageants, with the Lamanites, whose history is contained in the Book of Mormon, as the principle theme.

The Book of Mormon has been in circulation for nearly 109 years. It has been attacked, ridiculed and condemned, yet in all that time not one chapter, or statement, or word has been disproved. To the contrary, evidence continues to increase, indicating its divinity.

The results of reading the Book of Mormon almost invariably are: increased faith in the Gospel, better understanding of the Bible and greater conviction that the missions of Joseph Smith and the Church were and are divinely inspired. The wealth of information available through the various Church organizations will help materially during the coming year to make the reading of this inspired record more interesting and helpful to all Latter-day Saints.

HIGH COUNCIL, MISSIONARY ASSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY

Alameda: Victor J. Lindblad, Ed Kingsford.
Berkeley: Grant Ellis, Preston Jackson.
Dimond: Don J. Allphin, Oscar Fontano.
Elmhurst: William J. Nielsen, Glen E. Elliot.
Hayward: John J. Kest, Clare C. Hunt.
Martinez: Delbert L. Wright, Bromwell Cox.
Oakland: Nathan G. Tolman, Ed. J. Partington.
Richmond: O. Leslie Stone, Robert T. Paine.
Vallejo: Don C. Wood, Werner Van Dorp.

STAKE PRESIDENCY'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We greet you at the dawn of 1938 with love and appreciation for your association, confidence and support, and with the earnest desire that we may deserve a continuation thereof throughout the New Year. We sincerely wish for you a Happy New Year, with the genuine happiness you are bound to reap and taste as you serve.

Looking backward we see many changes, some accomplishment, some mistakes, much growth, much yet needing to be done. On the whole we believe the record for 1937 is one of progress.

Looking forward we see great things, for we have just begun to grow. There is much to be done individually and collectively.

Individually, it is in order for one at this season to search oneself and put oneself in tune to do one's part. Each can ask with profit, how can I better my record? How do I stand on tithes and offerings? On the Word of Wisdom? Do I respond readily and willingly when my bishop calls on me? Am I truly practicing the Golden Rule?

Collectively, there is much to be done if the work is to prosper. That much will be easy, surprisingly easy, if our individual attitudes are in tune. There are several wards still not enjoying their own homes. We have outgrown the present Stake headquarters. We have no fully adequate place to serve as a social center for the young and old. **And if our children are to be properly reared in the traditions and ideals of the Church, and have opportunity when the proper time comes to meet and mate with the suitable companions, this is important.** Then, too, there is a great missionary work to be done, and the social security plan to be put into effective operation here.

Truly this is no time for resting on oars; there is work, work for everyone. May we have the vision to see it, the strength and courage to accomplish it, and may the year 1938 be rich in its contribution toward that accomplishment.

Sincerely your brethren,
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AARONIC PRIESTHOOD, M-MEN CONVENTIONS

Leadership of boys and young men in Oakland and nearby stakes was greatly stimulated by the Aaronic Priesthood and M. Men conventions held here December 12, under the direction of Bishop David A. Smith of the Presiding Bishopric and John D. Giles of the M. I. A. General Board.

The very comprehensive plan of activity for boys sponsored by the Church was dwelt on quite fully, and the part played therein by Sunday School, Mutual and Priesthood Quorum. It is one of the most complete programs the world has seen, and has already placed the Church in the lead among organizations sponsoring scouting.

The big need of the movement is in the field of leadership, to keep the boys in the movement as they grow older. From scouthood a boy advances to the explorer group, and then becomes an M. Man. M. Men are divided into three groups: associate, active and master. To become a Master M. Man, certain achievements must be accomplished, and the ultimate goal is to make of the individual a sort of a minute man in church service, available at the call of his bishop.

HIGH PRIESTS TO STAGE PARTY

A basket lunch party for all members of the High Priest Quorum of Oakland Stake is scheduled for January 14th, in the Berkeley recreation hall, 8 P. M. The committee says to bring your lunches; be prepared to eat out of your own shoe box. Drinks will be furnished.

TEMPLE PILGRIMAGE TO SALT LAKE TEMPLE

Contrary to previous announcements, there will be no pilgrimage to the Arizona Temple during the pre-Easter week of 1938. Instead, Temple authorities have invited President Hilton to conduct a pilgrimage to the Salt Lake Temple immediately following the April conference. A junior baptismal excursion will be a prominent feature, as also a testimony meeting to be held in the Temple assembly room. Fifteen day round trip tickets will be issued by the Southern Pacific Railroad for $18.00, and similar accomidations are being sought of the Western Pacific. An auto caravan will also be arranged.

ALAMEDA WARD PROCURES BUILDING SITE

With the help of the Presiding Bishopric, Alameda ward has purchased for $6,000.00 a beautiful corner lot for the erection of a chapel. It is situated at the intersection of Grand Street and Encinal Avenue in a very fine section of the city devoted to homes and churches. There is at present a large dwelling on the lot; it is planned to wreck the building and use the materials partly for the erection of the new chapel and partly on the Stake security project. Actual ground breaking for the new chapel is scheduled for about March 1st.

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BERKELEY

A Christmas party was given by the Sunday School on Thursday evening, Dec. 23, in the chapel. Santa Claus was present and gave a package to each child. Stories and readings were included in the entertainment. Basil Peterson was chairman for the evening.

Students of the University of California who are spending the holidays in Utah include Eldon Gardner, Weston Taylor, and Louise Linton. Dilworth Jenson, Richard Clark, and Jay Clark spent Christmas in the southern part of California.

On December 23 Miss Emily Merrill became the bride of Dr. Datus Miller Hammond, instructor at the Utah State College at Logan. Both have attended the University of California, from which Dr. Hammond received his Ph. D. degree. Miss Louise Linton and Mrs. William Louis Fowlks entertained the bride at a miscellaneous shower on December 16.

On Christman Eve the Deseret Club held a party at the home of Alma Dean Erickson, after which the guests went Christmas carolling.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. McLaughlin recently returned from a two month's trip in Washington D.C. and New York. While there Mrs. McLaughlin visited her sister, Mrs. Clyde Squires.

Ward Hall Jr. is spending the Christmas vacation in Mexico City. He is also planning to visit San Antonio, Texas, the Carlsbad Caverns, and the Grand Canyon. He will return in time for the opening of college.

Miss Merle Pitchforth of Salt Lake City is spending the holidays with her sister, Mrs. T. E Banning, and brother, Mr. Lee Pitchforth

Mrs. Minnie Smith and her daughter Barbara Lee spent the first part of the holidays with the former's parents in Logan.

Mr. Francis Neilson, of Berkeley ward **will appear in the leading part in the opera "Fra Diabolo" to be presented at the Oakland Auditorium January 7th and 8th, with a matinee Saturday Afternoon. Well known** members of the San Francisco Light Opera Company, who are also appearing include Mary Montez and John Howell.

Mrs. Margaret Monson has been confined to the hospital for the last few weeks with a severe attack of pneumonia. It is hoped by all that she will soon recover.

Honoring Mr. and Mrs. Hilding M. Marlowe, the ward Genealogical committee gave a house party at the home of Chairman A. E. H. Cardwell, on December 13th. Mr. Marlowe has been serving as a councilor to the chairman, for some time but is now leaving to live in Vancouver, Washington. The ward joins in wishing them well.

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OAKLAND

Karlton Driggs, who has been the organist for the Oakland Ward Sunday School for some time, has been made Stake Sunday School Organist. Mable Bowerbank has taken Karlton's place in the Oakland Ward.

Dorothy Watts and Verl Bagley from Portland will spend the Christmas holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Barney.

Flora Sears is in the hospital recovering from an attack of bronchial pneumonia. She is improving rapidly, and we hope to see her again, soon.

The Adult Book of Mormon Class is under the direction of Ralph Barney, instead of Bishop Shields as was previously stated.

The gleaner girl class has been enjoying a rare feast for several weeks. Myrtle Larson has generously given of her talent in leading a discussion on the "Art of Marriage." The M. Men joined in the class one Tuesday evening and they have expressed their desire to participate further in this interesting series.

The senior Class of this Ward, in their endeavor to carry out the project outlined by the Church—that of socializing the members of this group—will hold their first party on January 2nd at the home of Reed Chase, 651 58th St., Oakland.

ELMHURST

The Primary Association held a very splendid Conference on December 12. All the children took part and everyone present enjoyed the meeting.

Mrs. R. Brown has returned from Gridley, California, where she visited her sister.

Mrs. M. Shreeve and Mr. and Mrs. F. Richards, from Ogden Utah were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Iven Pearson.

A group of young people spent an enjoyable evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Brown in honor of Pete's birthday.

Have you noticed the diamond ring Miss Elma Behunin is wearing on her left hand? Vaun Mody is the lucky man.

We held a very successful Carnival Dance December 17. Everyone present had a grand time. We are having another dance on January 29. Come and have a good time with us.

The Deacon Quorum has been organized with Glen Marchant as president, Darrell Stauffer, and Donald Flaner as counselors and James Muir, secretary.

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RICHMOND

The Sunday School basket social was a financial success. The men were in the majority and so baskets were at a premium.

The Relief Society Christmas party was well attended and everyone enjoyed the exchange of gifts.

The Missionary Investigators meeting was attended by an unusually large crowd of 120 people.

Mrs A. Morley, Lillian Morley and Timothy Morley Jr. drove to Los Angeles for several days to witness the Rose Bowl game and The Tournament of Roses.

The Beehive Girls visited Mildred Morris who is confined in the Martinez Hospital.

A Mother's Reception Dinner was given by the Gleaner Girls at the home of Grace Hopkins on November 19th. The program included the History of the Gleaner Girls, musical numbers by Leah Tidwell, and games. Charlotte Fawcett, social chairman, was in charge.

Mr. and Mrs. Nephi Thulin of Vallejo were recent visitors in Richmond

Thanks to everyone for the splendid support given our Building Fund Dinner! Sponsored by the Mutual, assisted by the Relief Society, the dinner was a financial success. One hundred and sixty-five dinners were served and there were several donations bringing the net profit to about $135.

VALLEJO

On December 5th the Mutual gave a very interesting program conducted by Mary Standley of the Young ladies organization.

The Primary Conference which was held Sunday, December 12th was a wonderful success and greatly enjoyed by all. Vallejo can well be proud of this new orginization and greatly appreciate the efforts which are being put forth by the officers and teachers.

HAYWARD

The MIA is attracting a large attendance at meetings. The splendid corps of teachers and the effort put forth by all shows what can be accomplished when members of a group work in harmony and really put forth an effort to reach a goal. The play, "The Castle of Mr. Simpson," has been presented to a record attendance of Mutual people.

Sister Jeanette Teeples was baptized into the Church this month. We congratulate her and welcome her as a member.

The Greens lost the Attendance race in Mutual so had to sponsor a party and dance, which was well attended.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL, PRIMARY CONVENTION IN JANUARY

The annual conventions of the Sunday School and Primary Associations are scheduled to be held on Saturday and Sunday, January 29th and 30th under the direction of the Stake Presidency and visiting members of the general boards.

The Primary Stake Board requests that ward teachers and Relief Society teachers in making their calls will find out the names of any children not attending Primary, and urge them to come out.

Stake Professional Directory

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VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS:
To Mr. and Mrs. Frank Campbell, Alameda, a daughter, December 5th.
To Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Campbell, two boys and a girl, triplets.
To Mr. and Mrs. C. Stamps, Elmhurst, a son, November 29.

BLESSINGS:
Jaqueline Keller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lew Keller, Alameda, December 5th.
Baleria Hatch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Hatch, Berkeley, December 5th.
Barbara Fern Ruehala, Elmhurst, December 5th.
Kenneth Wilmer Gingler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth P. Gengler, Richmond, December 5th.
Ronald Richard Barcyes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Barcyes, Richmond, December 5th.

BAPTISMS AND CONFIRMATIONS:
Dorothy Peart. Elmhurst.
Naydine Staley, Elmhurst.
Mary Birchell, Elmhurst.
Helen Flaner, Elmhurst.
Jeanette E. Teeples, Hayward.
Philip G. Teeples, Haywward.
Beverly Jean Teeples, Hayward.
Jean Loomis, Hayward.
Robert A Allington, Hayward.
Reed D. Welchoff, Hayward.
Daryle M. Webb, Hayward
Marie Prescott, Vallejo.
Daryl Lathrop, Vallejo.

ORDINATIONS:
Gunner Larson, Berkeley, Priest, November 26.
Robert Clark, Berkeley, Priest, November 26.
Lawrence Allphin, Elmhurst, Teacher.
Herbert Marsh, Elmhurst, Priest.
Earl Wells, Hayward, Teacher.

MARRIAGES:
Emily Merrill and Datus Hammond, Berkeley, on December 23, in the Salt Lake Temple.

MARTINEZ

I. B. Ball presented the slides on the "Book of Mormon" at our M.I.A. conjoint meeting December 5th.

Robert Kest, soon leaving on a mission to Holland, was a recent visitor at our Sunday evening meeting. He and Nellie May Kest favored us with vocal solos.

Mr. and Mrs. Robison of Idaho are visiting with their sons Glenn and Ervan and families.

The M.I.A. held its Christmas party December 15th. Games and dancing were enjoyed, and "The Wedding of Santa Claus" was given as entertainment and fun for all.

The annual children's Christmas party was held Dec. 23rd, with the Primary presenting the program.

A special Christmas program was presented Sunday morning, Dec. 26th, at Sunday School. Natalie Sant was in charge of this, assisted by George Barber.

The Pittsburg Sunday School presented the speakers and musical numbers for Sacrament meeting Dec. 12th.

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DIMOND

Since the accidental death of her son, Lowell, in October, Mrs. Vilate Pearce has been in Arizona with his family, she expects to return home by New Year's.

The December officers and teachers meeting of the Primary workers was turned into a surprise stork shower for Miriam Lee, at the home of Edna Torgenson.

Mrs. Vera Kneeshaw is happy to report that her husband, Jackson, is now convalescing, after a very serious illness.

Sunday evening, December 12, at the home of Ted Mudge, the Book of Mormon class had a party for Robert Kest, the Ward's newest missionary. The young people enjoyed games and refreshments, and showered Bob with many useful gifts as evidence of their good wishes. Lucille Morgan is President of the Class.

Sarah Summerhays and Helen Payne are looking forward to a visit with their mother, Mrs. Electa Dixon and their sisters, Maurine, Gladys and Allie; also their Aunt Irma Smoot from Provo.

Everyone is invited to attend the Genealogical Open House to be held early in January, watch Bulletin board for date. Commencing Monday January 3, 1938—7:30 P. M. the genealogical organization will conduct Senior and Junior classes, the Senior class course of study will be "Methods of Research," the Junior class, "Book of Remembrance."

Mrs. Edna Mitchell had her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Ganzer of Los Angeles, spend the holidays with her.

A delightful Xmas party sponsored by the Sunday School and Primary officers was given Wednesday evening December 22 in the Recreation hall, for the children of the Ward. The splendid program was climaxed with Santa Claus appearing in his sleigh with gifts for every child present.

New arrivals in the Ward, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Campbell of St. George, Utah, were looking forward to the first "blessed event." It turned out to be thrice blessed, —two boys and a girl.

A Christmas service was held on Christmas morning in the ward Chapel. President Eugene Hilton was the speaker, and Mrs. Clyde Summerhays gave a reading. Musical numbers were furnished by Mrs. Johan. It is hoped that it will become an annual event.

ALAMEDA

The Primary Association held its annual conference Sunday evening, November 28. The children were dressed as Pilgrims to represent the time of the season, Thanksgiving. We were very glad to have Primary Stake Officers, Mrs Rose Clark and Mrs Leona Sprague present with us. We wish to thank all of the Primary Officers, Teachers and children for their splendid cooperation. Primary is held every Monday at 4 o'clock in the Odd Fellows Hall. A delightful Christmas party was given for the children on December 20.

Our building fund dinner was a great success. We will have another on January 22, we hope to see members from other wards support us at that time. There will be an auction sale at that night also. Our Theatre Party also went over big. We expect to have one every month or so.

The Alameda Camp of Daughters of Utah Pioneers was organized Wednesday Mrs. Elnora Jensen.

Mrs. Carol Durham and children left December 18th to spend Christmas in Salt Lake with relatives and friends.

Mrs. Harold New of Long Beach, California is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Thys Winkle.

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION:

Resolved: to pay my tithes and offerings each month, as my income is earned and received, rather than wait to the end of the year.